

## **2nd Draft**

### **Bush River Community Council**

#### **May 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

The third meeting of the Bush River Community Council (BRCC) was called to order by the Chairman, John Paff, at 6:34 p.m. in the Media Room, Church Creek Elementary School on May 16, 2011. Maryland Delegate Glen Glass, Chris Swain Commander of the Southern Precinct and Corporal Hobbs of the Harford County Sheriff's Office, and Patricia Gonzalez from the County Executive Staff were present. Senator Jacobs and Councilwoman Lisanti experienced schedule conflicts and could not attend. Council Board members in attendance were Chairman John Paff, Glenn Dudderar, Harry Webster, Randy Conlon, Kathleen Leary and Mary Starks. Larry Carmichael and Carolyn Shea were absent. 17 members of the Bush River community attended. The Chairman led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States.

Corporal Hobbs presented the current monthly reported crime statistics with 12,685 year-to-date calls for service in all of Harford County with 1,058 specifically in the Perryman, Riverside and Churchville Sector. Calls for our sector included 11 assaults, 2 burglaries and 3 motor vehicles thefts, 1 robbery and 26 thefts. Most crime reports (41%) occurred between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm with 36% between 4:00 pm and midnight and 23% from midnight to 8:00 am. There have been 1,058 calls for service year to date versus 1,226 calls year to date for 2010. He reminded all to use the [www.harfordsheriff.org](http://www.harfordsheriff.org) to access more detailed crime statistics for individual neighborhoods. He also reminded everyone to lock doors, windows and automobiles to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime. Commander Swain introduced himself and indicated he looks forward to working with the BRCC.

Harry Webster, Perryman Bridge Committee Chair, presented the Perryman/Forrest Greens report and master plan prepared by the Homeowners Association which includes the residents' vision for their community in terms of environmental resource protection (there are 8 wells located on the Perryman Peninsula all of which contribute to county drinking water supply); improved quality of life; preservation of historical sites, green/open space and wildlife habitat; improved transportation including a continuous bike trail from Forrest Greens Park to Perryman Park and improved intersections of Route 7, Route 40 715 and Perryman Road into Spesutia Road. The Homeowners' Association has worked tirelessly with county and state government, landowners and potential developers to preserve and protect the environment. They have made some progress, however, more work is needed as the County Economic Impact effort currently includes building a 2 span, 5 lane bridge over marsh and wetlands connecting Route 40 along Mitchel Lane to Spesutia Road to lure potential contractors into development of the remainder of the peninsula which is zoned for light manufacturing, office space and distribution centers. The HOA will continue to address changing the zoning to low impact development which would to a great extent lessen the negative environmental impact to the community. A major concern is how the county plans to manage storm water run-off. For example, where the truck distribution center was built, instead of containment ponds as suggested by the HOA, the county opted to use storm water infiltration which results in all chemicals and contaminants emitted from many motor vehicles using the vast blacktop center will run into ground water and be absorbed into wells. The report is backed by facts and information obtained from government records, advisories and developer communication. There are three areas of priority concern: Smart roads, infrastructure and natural areas. The council will support these efforts.

Randy Conlon volunteered to chair a committee on Transportation. He has researched current budget projects and will work closely with the Bridge committee to address those problems. Several attendees suggested other areas of concern beside local public transportation to and from APG Aberdeen and Edgewood areas from neighborhoods in the community. One was the intersection at Abingdon Road and Route 7 which has not been upgraded since several new developments have been built around it. It is always congested, but worse during rush hours.

Delegate Glen Glass introduced himself and offered assistance to the council in State Government issues. In his first session at the legislature, he introduced two bills: one designed to reduce the risk of domestic violence by requiring those under restraining orders to maintain a designated and reasonable number of feet from the proposed victim. It passed both houses, but amendments were attached and it was not voted on again. It could be resurrected and he will pursue it. The second bill would permit a 5 day bow-hunting allowance on private property on Sundays. This could possibly increase the 70 tons per year of venison resulting from hunting seasons that provide for feeding the hungry. This was passed by the house but was held in committee. Delegate Glass communicated that he opposed gay marriage bill, the 2012 budget which provides public funding of abortion and raises the gasoline tax, alcohol tax, taxes on teachers and state employees to pay pensions and health care, fees on vehicle title changes, birth certificates and nursing home beds, etc. He voted against the bill to provide tuition assistance to children of illegal aliens which was proposed by Senator Ramirez, Montgomery County. Many illegal aliens fled from Virginia's crackdown on undocumented immigrants to Maryland counties since ease of obtaining driver's licenses, health care and "friendly" legal treatment is enticing them. Delegate Glass is circulating a petition to move this bill to referendum – place it on the ballot for voters to decide if they want to provide scarce tuition resources to illegal aliens. It is estimated that this bill if passed will cost Harford Community College at least \$3.6M per year. Already there is concern over slashed scholarship budgets for legal citizens. He is encouraging everyone to sign regardless of how he or she may vote. At least the voices of Marylanders will be heard if it goes to referendum. Anyone who would like to sign and circulate a petition can find it on [www.mdpetitions.com](http://www.mdpetitions.com) – download, sign, circulate and send it in by May 20<sup>th</sup> to: MDpetitions.com, c/o Delegate Neil Parrott, PO Box 32, Funkstown, MD 21734. The contact phone is 410-774-0121. Delegate Glass is the representative of Harford County Residents from Port Deposit east of I95 all the way to Joppatown.

The council is still considering which park to adopt for clean-up and maintenance. Suggestions are the park at Riverside near the Lorien convalescent facility and the Perryman Park. The question was raised as to whether the cost of maintaining parks is included in the county budget. It is, but resources are scarce and volunteers are needed.

We now have three standing committees (Bridge, Transportation, and Business); Larry Carmichael is the chair for Business. Eventually we will have one for the environment and one for education. Committees will work to keep abreast of current issues and status of their field and report back to the council each month.

The chairman is working on our June agenda to include Col Ortiz, APG Garrison Commander with a report on BRAC status and a representative from the Rte 40 Business Association to present plans for improving the quality and appearance of Rte 40 from Joppatown to Aberdeen. Included in our June meeting agenda will be a representative from county water and sewer to present an update on several projects in our community. Also, Abingdon Volunteer Fire Department will be providing a member to attend our meetings with status on fires, emergencies, and safety issues.

In response to Chairman's call for neighborhood issues, the following were raised and will be researched:

- Route 7/Abingdon Road intersection congestion
- Railroad ties discarded by the Pennsylvania Railroad crews replacing them on the bridge over Bush River wash up on residents' beaches. Concern is for damage to the water from contaminants, boats, piers and difficulty removing them.
- Better recreational use of the state rest area on Route 40 at Otter Creek of Bush River.
- Concern over a sign near Brass- Mill Road and 543 advertising 600 apartments to be built there.
- Concern for the Rte 7, Cranberry Road, Spesutia Road and Mitchel Lane neighborhoods: There are many poor and/or elderly residents living there and the traffic and poor storm water drainage makes it very difficult for them to get in and out or even get their mail safely and without standing in water during rainy weather. They need wider roads and sidewalks.
- Perrywood Gardens apartment complex is in the process of being sold. When the complex was built it was very nice with a pool and well maintained grounds. Then it was designated "low cost housing" and it has degraded. With the pending sale, if it could be upgraded once more to luxury apartments, the quality of life and value of properties in the neighborhood would improve.
- Proposals to locate a solid waste transfer station (county dump) in either Joppatown or Edgewood have been disapproved by both communities. There is concern that Belcamp/Perryman areas could be the next proposal.
- Question as to whether the homeless shelter on Brass Mill Road has closed. This location has been a difficult, but positive resolution and there is concern for the homeless if it is closed or seasonally closed.
- Several locations are being researched for a more convenient meeting place for the BRCC.